

## 2021 Combined Federal Campaign Is Here

The federal charity drive is now in its 60th year.

BY HOLLY EVAN AND CHANG XIANG

The Library is launching its annual Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) charitable-giving drive on Monday. The goal is to collect \$300,000 in pledges and volunteer hours between now and Jan. 15, when the campaign ends.

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden is chairing the Library's campaign, which is being led this year by two service units: the offices of the chief operating officer (COO) and the chief information officer (OCIO). We (Holly Evan, OCIO) and (Chang Xiang, COO) are the campaign managers, and our colleagues Trey Carson III (COO) and John Bauer (OCIO) are serving as vice chairs.

In addition, dozens of staff members from across Library divisions, including many returning volunteers, will support this year's campaign as service unit coordinators and keyworkers.

This year's theme is "You Can Be the Face of Change," and the drive will be conducted virtually once again because of the pandemic.

"In these unprecedented times, now more than ever, we all have an opportunity to give something back to those less fortunate than us," Carson said. "The many charities connected to CFC provide an easy way to find areas that align with your goals and interests."

The Library's campaign is part of a

CFC, CONTINUED ON 6

## NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL



Shawn Miller

Book festival authors Adrienne Raphel (left) and Will Shortz joined NPR's Lulu Garcia-Navarro in the Coolidge Auditorium on Sept. 21, the first time the venue welcomed the public since the pandemic began.

## It's a Wrap: 10-Day Festival Comes to an End

Reopening of Coolidge, culinary books among high points of final week.

BY NEELY TUCKER

Let the record reflect that on Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2021, at about 7 p.m., Shari Werb, director of the Library's Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement, came onstage during the National Book Festival in the Jefferson Building and said the following:

"This is the first event in our historic Coolidge Auditorium in over a year and a half."

It was a statement so welcome

and so long in coming that the crowd – most of them sitting a few seats apart around the auditorium – burst into applause. She had to wait for it to die down before adding: "And it feels really good to be back home."

The comeback event was an onstage, socially distanced conversation with crossword puzzle gurus Will Shortz and Adrienne Raphel. The last event before COVID-19 shut down all live events

NBF, CONTINUED ON 7

# NOTICES

## DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Gloria Dixon at [gdixon@loc.gov](mailto:gdixon@loc.gov).

Lynette Brown  
Tiffany Corley Harkins  
Stephanie Jefferson

Linda Malone  
Kenneth Mitchell

## SIGN UP FOR A FLU SHOT

The Health Services Division is offering free flu shots by appointment to Library staff, contractors, on-site volunteers and employees of the U.S. Capitol Police and the Architect of the Capitol. Because of the increased risk of respiratory illness now, it is especially important to get a flu shot this year.

[Sign up here.](#)

### Oct. 5

**Carriage entrance, Jefferson Building (drive through)**  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Oct. 1, 6, 7, 8

**Montpelier Room, Madison Building**  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Shots will also be offered soon at the Taylor Street annex and on the Packard Campus.

Questions? Contact HSD at [hso@loc.gov](mailto:hso@loc.gov).

## STAFF WORKSHOP: BEST PRACTICES FOR GENDER INCLUSIVITY

**Oct. 13, 10:30 a.m. to noon**  
[Online](#)

At the request of staff, the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity Programs is offering a second Zoom workshop on best practices for being inclusive of transgender and nonbinary colleagues. Participants will practice skills in small groups and learn vocabulary and actions that contribute to increased inclusion.

Mahri Monson of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of General Counsel will lead the workshop. Monson is vice chair of the agency's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Advisory Council.

Register [here](#) to get credit in LOC Learn.

Questions? Contact Sarah Kith at [skith@loc.gov](mailto:skith@loc.gov).

Request ADA accommodations five business days in advance at (202) 707-6362 or [ADA@loc.gov](mailto:ADA@loc.gov).

# GAZETTE

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

[loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://loc.gov/staff/gazette)

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### MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library's central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

### ABOUT THE GAZETTE

An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at [loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://loc.gov/staff/gazette).

### GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF

Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.—Ed.

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### GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the Oct. 15 Gazette is Wednesday, Oct. 6.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).

To promote events through the Library's online calendar ([www.loc.gov/loc/events](http://www.loc.gov/loc/events)) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to [calendar@loc.gov](mailto:calendar@loc.gov) by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.

Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).

**DO YOU FORWARD THE GAZETTE TO FORMER COLLEAGUES?**



Questions or ideas? Contact [alumni@loc.gov](mailto:alumni@loc.gov)

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

# ALUMNI NETWORK

Invite them to join the Library of Congress Alumni Network to stay connected

[www.loc.gov/alumni](http://www.loc.gov/alumni)

## Library Experts Connect Collections with Author Stories

BY SAHAR KAZMI

Audiences received a closer look at a few of the extraordinary collections held at the Library at this year's National Book Festival, thanks to a series of expert-led bonus presentations interwoven into the festival's author videos.

The staff-led vignettes, along with a number of live, Library of Congress-centered webinars from employees, showcased some of the incredibly diverse historical materials available at the Library and how they relate to the work of today's creators.

Author Joy Williams, winner of the 2021 Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction, spoke with Literary Initiatives specialist Robert Casper about how the pandemic has moved more people to turn to books and experience the joy of reading. In a partner presentation, reference specialist Abby Yochelson echoed that sentiment, noting simply, "If you're stuck inside and can't wander out in the world, you can wander in a book."

Dozens of other Library specialists held back the curtain to share insights about their work and the ways the Library's unparalleled collections reveal and deepen the American story.

Following a talk from author and actor Michael J. Fox, moving image archivist Kelly Chisholm spotlighted cinema history with a look at the Library's 35-millimeter film print of the 1985 classic "Back to the Future."

Inspired by references to Ghanaian cuisine in Yaa Gyasi's novel "Transcendent Kingdom," African and Middle Eastern Division chief Lanisa Kitchiner shared a look at a few of the Library's Africana cookbooks.

"These books will not only give you a taste of the history and contemporary significance of Ghanaian culinary art, from cassava to cocoyam to chicken peanut butter stew," she said, "but they will also explain how these rich traditions



**Shelly Smith of the Conservation Division led a National Book Festival webinar about book-binding practices.**

capture and reflect the indigenous Ghanaian identity."

Historian Barbara Bair took audiences on a journey into the Library's Manuscript Division, connecting author Tana French's detective novel, "The Searcher," to the papers of famed crime writer James M. Cain.

Another Manuscript historian, Josh Levy, drew out the themes of artificial intelligence in Kazuo Ishiguro's "Klara and the Sun" with an exploration into the Library's papers from early machine learning scientists.

After novelists Christopher Paolini and Martha Wells discussed their work in the world of speculative fiction, librarian Megan Metcalf explored how fanzines and periodicals dating back to the 1920s have allowed fans to build community through the "world-expanding, boundary-pushing power of science fiction and fantasy."

Suzanne Schadl, chief of the Latin American, Caribbean and European Division, considered the similarly immersive noir aesthetics of author Silvia Moreno-Garcia to draw connections to the Mexican melodramas and Spanish-language graphic novels held at the Library.

Reference librarian Megan Halsband also discussed illustrated narratives and graphic novels, sharing in particular the works of pioneering Black women comic writers like Roxane Gay and Yona Harvey. In a webinar with Prints and Photographs' Sara Duke, Halsband took an even deeper dive into the Library's historical comic collections, detailing the artistic process behind the creation of Spider-Man.

In Library-focused presentations, Conservation Division staff demonstrated the evolution of book-binding practices, and a Rare Book and Special Collections team explored how modern visual artists like Joan Miró and Henri Matisse have experimented with the written word. The Copyright Office's John Saint Amour spoke with audiences and answered questions about the significance of copyright in artistic creation.

Together, these and other expert videos allowed the public to experience Library resources in new contexts and learn more about the daily work of the world's largest library. In placing the Library's collections front and center throughout the festival, these staff presentations illuminated the layered connections between history and storytelling. ■

# La Biblioteca Launches Season Two

As part of Hispanic Heritage Month, season two of the La Biblioteca podcast launches on Oct. 5. The series' six episodes take a deep dive into issues related to civil rights cases and events in the U.S. that have left an indelible mark in the Latino community from the 1900s to the present.

Produced by Huntington Fellowship interns Maria Guadalupe Partida and Herman Luis Chávez, the series focuses on the [Latinx Resource Guide](#), a first-of-its-kind online compendium of civil rights resources that currently ranks among the most used research guides at the Library.

Following release of the first episode next week, five additional episodes will be released weekly.



Carol M. Highsmith Archive/Prints and Photographs Division

**This mural in the Mission District of San Francisco is discussed in a new episode of La Biblioteca.**

The episodes feature interviews with Latino political, academic and community leaders about issues like health care, voting rights, political empowerment, education and immigration. There's also an episode on environmental activism on Vieques Island in Puerto Rico.

"We're the biggest minority in the United States, and our

voices matter," said Partida, a native Texan and the daughter of Mexican immigrants.

For Partida, the podcast was a natural extension of the [resource guide](#) the Huntington fellows created last year and a tool to provide context to collection items at the Library.

A poster about forced sterilizations in California between 1909 and 1964 inspired the season's inaugural episode. It is about *Madrigal v. Quilligan*, a case stemming from a 1975 class-action lawsuit by 10 Mexican American women against Los Angeles County-USC Medical Hospital for involuntary sterilization.

In another episode, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Chair Joaquin Castro of Texas highlights the growth of the Hispanic electorate beyond traditional strongholds in New York, Florida, California, Texas and Illinois.

Access the new season [here](#). ■

## OBITUARY



Katherine Blood

### Alan M. Fern

Alan Fern, former Prints and Photographs Division (P&P) chief and special collections director, died peacefully at home on Sept. 13.

Fern was born in 1930 in Detroit and earned his master's and doctorate degrees in art history at the University of Chicago. He joined the Library in 1961 as an assistant curator of fine prints. One of Fern's favorite stories was recalling how he learned that his job was a one-year temporary appointment only

after he had moved from Chicago to Washington, D.C. He need not have worried: His expert knowledge of visual materials, talent for building collections and commitment to exhibitions resulted in a 21-year career at the Library.

Fern became P&P's assistant chief (1964) and chief (1974), then Research Department director (1976) and special collections director (1978). In 1982, the National Portrait Gallery appointed Fern to be its director. He retired from that position in 2000.

Martha Kennedy, retired curator for popular graphic arts, wrote that Fern's leadership role in securing the Erwin and Caroline Swann Collection of Caricature and Cartoon for the Library in the 1970s cannot be overstated.

As a founding and longtime member of the Swann Foundation Advisory Board, he brought constructive criticism and goodwill to the annual selection of

Swann Foundation Fellows and offered warm encouragement to rising scholars in the field. The [Swann Trust Fund endowment](#) has ensured an annual graphic arts exhibition since the 1980s.

Katherine Blood, curator of fine prints, remembers the sparkle in Fern's eye that reflected a fierce intelligence, sharp observations and always-ready humor.

His collections knowledge was profound with interests ranging from 16th- and 17th-century chiaroscuro prints to Japanese prints, daguerreotypes by John Plumbe and contemporary artist self-portraits. As recently as 2011, Fern wrote the lead essay for the [Washington Print Club Quarterly](#) issue dedicated to artwork on paper at the Library.

While Fern carried deep institutional knowledge and memory, his perspective was fully in, and of, the present. He was a big part of P&P's family and will be deeply missed. ■



Francisco Macías

## Francisco Macías

*Francisco Macías is head of the Iberia and Rio Office Section of the African, Latin American and Western European Division (ALAWWE).*

### **Tell us about your background.**

I was born in Valle Hermoso in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas, just a stone's throw from the Texas border. I am the youngest of five. We moved to the U.S. when I was three months old. From age 8 to about 18, I spent many summers in Valle Hermoso, which paved the way for my biliteracy.

I took the scenic route to getting my undergraduate degree. Initially, I wanted to be an architect. I took a year of drafting using AutoCAD at Texas State Technical College, which gave me an opportunity to explore architecture without a commitment. There, I also acquired some of the graphic skills I have honed over the years.

I graduated from the University of Texas at Brownsville with a bachelor's degree in Spanish, a minor in

English and a biliteracy certificate. I was the first to receive a biliteracy recognition at that university, now known as UT Rio Grande Valley.

Afterward, at the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District, I served as a children's librarian and also as a teacher of American literature. I left the Rio Grande Valley for graduate school at Colorado State University, where I earned a master's degree in English literature. While there, I supplemented my income doing translation, interpretation and third-party billing in Spanish for a medical accounting firm.

I then moved to Washington, D.C., in pursuit of a doctoral degree in medieval Catalan literature at the Catholic University of America, where I was a lecturer for basic Spanish courses. After a year there, I realized it wasn't for me. I took a job with Nielsen TV Ratings as a bilingual membership representative. However, recruiting Spanish-speaking homes proved difficult, so I sought gainful employment elsewhere.

### **What brought you to the Library?**

I responded to an ad that appeared in Craigslist. The position called for skills in Spanish legal translation. The company was a contractor and the client was the Law Library of Congress. I was to work in metadata for a repository of law known as the Global Legal Information Network. After two years of work as a contractor, a position became available, and I was pleased to become part of the Law Library staff.

I have been at the Library for nearly 16 years and am approaching 14 years of federal service this October. The Library has given me great opportunities in programming and outreach, and I have been able to explore personal intellectual interests within the context of my job.

Recently, thanks to a great opportunity I was given to serve as an acting section head in ALAWWE, I am now the section head of the Iberia and Rio Office Section. In this capacity, I have the distinct

privilege of collaborating with a wonderful group of librarians and technicians in the acquisition and cataloging of materials from Andorra, Portugal and Spain.

I love my job not only because my boss, peers and colleagues are such wonderful people, but also because I get to see lots of the new materials we get on subjects that I find absolutely fascinating!

### **What are some of your standout projects?**

There are so many, but I'll mention just two. One of my proudest moments was when I served as the project coordinator for "A Celebration of Mexico," a major international conference hosted by the Library in collaboration with the Mexican Embassy over two days with speakers, film, music and exhibitions highlighting the rich heritage of Mexico. Another was the opportunity to blog on many Hispanic subjects for In Custodia Legis, the Law Library's blog.

### **What do you enjoy doing outside work?**

This summer, I started playing pington with a group of friends. Pington is a game that was invented at Texas Southmost College in January 1960. It is a hybrid racquet sport that blends elements of pingpong and badminton. In essence, it's badminton with paddles. So, it moves at a very fast pace.

And because authentic Mexican and real Tex-Mex foods are hard to find in the area, I enjoy cooking some of the delicacies from both of my homes. It's very relaxing to cook some intricate dishes and see the end result and share these with friends.

### **What is something your co-workers may not know about you?**

Here are two things: I am a freemason and am recently engaged. ■

## CFC, CONTINUED FROM 1

federal governmentwide initiative that provides financial support to vetted charitable organizations addressing pressing social and economic issues. Established by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 – the CFC is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year – the campaign has grown into one of the largest and most successful workplace giving efforts in the world.

It started out in six cities with fewer than 50 participating charities and has expanded to include federal employees and retirees all around the globe who today can choose from among 5,000 charities. Since its inception, the CFC has raised \$8.5 billion to help those in need locally, across the nation and throughout the world – all due to the generosity of federal employees and retirees.

During the 2020 campaign, the federal community pledged more than \$83.6 million in monetary pledges and volunteer time. Most importantly, the Library exceeded its goal of \$300,000; it raised \$344,028 and solicited 377 pledged volunteer hours.

This year, as in recent years, staff will be able to pledge their time as volunteers with CFC charities and have those hours count toward the Library's goal, and retirees can pledge recurring gifts from their annuities.

If you pledge volunteer hours and want to be contacted by the charity to arrange an opportunity to help, make sure to provide your contact information. You can also reach out to a charity to learn about its volunteer options. In the past year, federal employees have assisted in translation, tutoring, budget balancing, event hosting and more.

As the pandemic continues, the need has never been greater. To honor the 60-year legacy of the CFC, consider pledging 60 hours of volunteer time or a \$60 recurring gift.

"The CFC provides a consistent way to give over time in order to

have a sustained impact, allowing your charity to properly plan to achieve its goals," Carson said.

But if that's a stretch, consider doing what works for you. Any donation, no matter the size, can make an impact, and anyone can be a changemaker through the CFC.

Donors to this year's campaign are encouraged to use the [online pledge portal](#), which offers a range of pledge options, including payroll deduction, use of credit and debit cards and electronic checks and the contribution of volunteer hours. By increasing the use of the electronic pledge system, the Office of Personnel Management, which oversees the CFC, hopes to increase the CFC's administrative efficiency.

The whole CFC effort comprises almost 200 individual campaigns in the U.S. and overseas. Volunteer groups of federal employees manage each of the individual campaigns, working with nonprofit executives in their communities to raise funds and distribute them to eligible charities.

The Library's CFC management team is working closely to ensure that everyone stays well informed and to provide the support needed for the Library to have another successful campaign.

For more information, contact the Library's team at [CFC@loc.gov](mailto:CFC@loc.gov), speak to your office keyworker or coordinator or visit the [Library's CFC intranet site](#).

And on a personal note, thank you for being the face of change for charitable causes such as helping communities recover from disaster, supporting military families, ensuring education for all and making a positive difference in our world.

You inspire and amaze us every day. ■

## USER DATA COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

**Oct. 7, 2 p.m.**  
[Online](#)

At the next User Data Community of Practice meeting, Library Services staff will speak about analyzing Zoom events, and the By the People team will share information about developing user personas and a volunteer survey. All interested staff are welcome to attend.

Questions? Contact Emily Roberts at [eeroberts@loc.gov](mailto:eeroberts@loc.gov).

## EARLY COPYRIGHT RECORDS

**Oct. 7, 3 to 4:30 p.m.**  
[Online](#)

The Rare Book and Special Collections Division and the Copyright Office are hosting "A Celebration of American Creativity: The Early Copyright Records Collection" to mark the addition of new digital content – books, sheet music, maps, advertising labels, prints and more – on the [Early Copyright Records Collection](#) website.

Speakers are John Y. Cole, recently retired historian of the Library of Congress; copyright scholar Zvi Rosen; and George Thuronyi of the Copyright Office.

Register [here](#). Questions? Contact Stephanie Stillo at [sssti@loc.gov](mailto:sssti@loc.gov).

## HELP SPREAD THE WORD: OF THE PEOPLE GRANTS

Help spread the word about three new grant opportunities with the Connecting Communities Digital Initiative (CCDI), part of the Of the People program. Individuals and educational and cultural institutions are invited to help amplify the stories of communities of color at the Library.

The grants will fund a minority-serving higher education institution; a library, archive or museum; and an artist or scholar in residence. The CCDI team will host a series of public webinars to provide information and answer questions about the grants.

For more information, visit the Of the People [blog](#).

## NBF, CONTINUED FROM 1

and no small number of other Library operations? March 2, 2020. Garth Brooks, Gershwin Prize winner, chatting on the very same stage with his wife and fellow country music star, Trisha Yearwood, with Librarian Carla Hayden asking the questions.

This time around, there was an even more festive atmosphere, a little giddy. Lulu Garcia-Navarro, host of NPR's Weekend Edition Sunday and moderator of the event, joked when she came onstage, "I even put on my pre-pandemic jeans for the occasion."

And then, like slipping into a comfortable pair of old shoes, the evening fell into the familiar pattern of Library events that once seemed a given: A smart, well-informed talk about an interesting subject, polite questions from a curious audience and a few laughs along the way.

As the festival wound down its 10-day schedule, with more than 100 authors appearing on a variety of platforms, Hayden was thrilled with the way the second virtual bookfest had turned out.

"This year, the National Book Festival showed there is a huge appetite from booklovers across the nation to connect and engage more than ever with their favorite authors," she said. "We truly hope that this year's festival fueled our collective spirit through the power of books and reading."

The festival's final days continued to showcase writers across the literary spectrum. There was a symposium on comic book history featuring the Library's copy of the comic in which Spider-Man first appeared, "Amazing Fantasy" No. 15, from 1962. Peter Godfrey-Smith, the Australian philosopher of science, discussed how animal life developed a "sense of experience," or consciousness, from his newest book. Novelists George Saunders and Alice McDermott talked about their craft with Washington Post book critic Ron Charles.

And, of course, there was the perennial favorite: cookbooks and the entertaining chefs and authors behind them.

The common refrain here is that food is never just about food. It's about everything: family, culture, humor, shared traditions and new experiences. The blends of American cooking, which incorporates cultures and ingredients from all over the world, result in an ever-changing but always compelling menu – and conversation.

"American food wouldn't be the same, it would be very dull without the Black experience," said Marcus Samuelsson, author of "The Rise: Black Cooks and the Soul of American Food."

Samuelsson is of Ethiopian and Swedish descent and is head chef of the Red Rooster Harlem. He spoke with Hawa Hassan, the Somali-born entrepreneur who has just written "In Bibi's Kitchen: The Recipes and Stories of Grandmothers from the Eight African Countries That Touch the Indian Ocean."

East African cooking isn't widely known in the U.S., so the pair dropped into a conversation about how and where to buy the ingredients needed. Specialty stores? Chain grocers? It wasn't, they agreed, a decision just about where to find turmeric.

Hassan counseled practicality: "If you're starting out, I hate to endorse these bigger grocery chains, but you're going to find cumin there, you're going to find cardamom there," she said. "Then, as you get more familiar with these cuisines, start going to the specialty stores to support them."

Samuelsson agreed that such an approach would do if you were in a hurry but said there is more to a dish than just the spices.

"When you go to one of our stores, one of our markets, it's a vibe," he said. "It's never just about buying the thing. If you're doing that, you're missing out. It's about arguing about the price, it's going back and forth, and

they're always gonna win. You know you're going to lose, but you're going to have a great time."

Southern chefs brought more of a down-home flavor. The recipes and methods of cooking in the Deep South have been shaped across the generations by small towns, home-grown vegetables and no small amount of poverty. It's a place where fancy ingredients aren't on the shelves, and far-flung dishes aren't what's on for supper.

Rodney Scott grew up in Hemingway, South Carolina, population 400, where "the biggest thing in town was your imagination."

Yearwood, the country music star, grew up in a Monticello, Georgia, population 2,000, where "our exotic spices were salt and pepper and sometimes garlic powder if we were really getting crazy."

They both cook professionally now, though. Scott is co-founder of Rodney Scott's Whole Hog BBQ, operating in both Charleston, South Carolina, and Birmingham, Alabama. He was the 2018 recipient of the James Beard Award for Outstanding Chef Southeast and is author of "Rodney Scott's World of BBQ: Every Day Is a Good Day."

Yearwood, author of four cookbooks (the latest is "Trisha's Kitchen: Easy Comfort Food for Friends and Family"), hosts her own cooking show on the Food Network.

Scott cooked his first "whole hog" over an open pit at age 11; Yearwood grew up in a house where her mother cooked by ear, saying things about fried chicken like, "You cook it till it sounds right."

Like Hassan and Samuelsson, they said that ingredients alone aren't what makes food taste good; it's also the life lived around its preparation.

"Food," Scott said, "is one of the universal languages." ■